



Appl. No. 09/751,271
Amdt. Dated April 22, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 11, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-24 (Canceled)

Claim 25. (original) A method of treating dilated cardiomyopathy of a heart of a patient, the method including the steps of:

providing a constriction device formed of resilient material having an unstressed C-shape configuration with an effective radius less than a dilated mitral valve annulus and a cross sectional dimension for being received within the coronary sinus of the heart; and

advancing the constriction device into the coronary sinus of the heart until the constriction device at least partially encircles the mitral valve of the heart.

Claim 26. (original) The method of claim 25 wherein the advancing step includes releasably coupling the constriction device to an elongated flexible introducer and moving the constriction device into the coronary sinus with the introducer.

Claim 27. (original) The method of claim 26 including the further steps of releasing the introducer from the constriction device when the constriction device at least partially encircles the mitral valve and removing the introducer from the patient.

Claim 28. (original) The method of claim 26 including the further step of placing a cylindrical sheath within the coronary sinus of the heart of the patient, the sheath having a cross sectional dimension for receiving the introducer and constriction device, and wherein the advancing step includes the step of guiding the introducer and constriction device into the coronary sinus within the sheath.

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Claim 29. (original) The method of claim 28 including the further steps of releasing the introducer from the constriction device when the constriction device at least partially encircles the mitral valve and removing the introducer and sheath from the patient.

Claim 30. (original) The method of claim 29 including the further step of retracting the sheath until the sheath is proximal to the constriction device prior to releasing the introducer from the constriction device.

Claims 31-50 (Canceled)